



WEDNESDAY EVENING, MARCH 7, 1900.

THE PRESIDENT has become alarmed at the wide spread opposition his Porto Rico tariff bill has evoked in his own party, and so fearful of its effect upon his own re-nomination and election, that he has redoubled his support of that bill, and is attempting to throw the responsibility of its authorship upon his Secretary of War, Mr. Root, who, apparently at least, is not only perfectly willing to bear all the blame of the whole administration, but is proud to do so. The President's course on this bill has reflected no credit upon him. He at first said there should be free trade with Porto Rico; then, yielding to the sugar and tobacco trusts, he revoked and said there should be a twenty-five per cent. tariff, and now, scared by the effect of that yielding, he turns again, attempts to sacrifice his friends, and reverts to the democratic policy of free trade.

BOTH THE State and the federal constitutions provide against a general warrant for the search of persons and places. But neither the members of the Virginia legislature nor the Governor seem to have any more regard for constitutions than ex-Congressman Tim Campbell of New York has for such instruments. The legislature instructed the Virginia Senators to vote for an amendment to the Constitution by which U. S. Senators shall be elected by the direct vote of the people, but as the people elected the legislature and the Governor, what reason is there to suppose they would elect better men to the U. S. Senate?

SO UNPOPULAR is Mr. McKinley now, by reason of his unnecessary wars, his single gold standard, his Porto Rico tariff bill, his yielding to the influence of his own ambition and to the selfish desires of the trusts and protectionists, and his manifest friendship for the English in their attempt to crush the liberty of the Boers, who are fighting for their homes, that between him and ex-President Harrison, who opposes him on all these questions, there is little doubt that the majority of the non-offseeking and disinterested members of his party would prefer the latter for their next President.

DEATH seems to be unusually rife among the Congressmen this session, another one having died last night. It now, as always, is no respecter of persons, taking the old and the young alike. Mr. Harmer, of Pennsylvania, was the oldest, and Mr. Epes, of Virginia, who was buried three days before, was one of the youngest members of the House; but there are so many people to die now, that the death of any one of them is the cause of no special wonder.

THE RECENT reported victories of the British in South Africa seem to have united and consolidated the Boers of that whole region. Those of Cape Colony have now openly joined those of the other States. Great Britain will doubtless crush them in the end, if there be no foreign intervention, but as they are at home, while the British base of reinforcements and supplies is in a far off country, the end referred to is not yet.

SENATOR LINDSEY of Kentucky, now that his democratic successor has been elected, has gone over entirely to the republicans, and yesterday was the only man on the democratic side of the Senate whose name was recorded with the enemies of the party by whose votes he yet holds a seat in that body. Mr. Lindsey is a native of Virginia, but he does not reflect any credit upon the State of his nativity.

THE PLAY of Sapho is moral enough for the young girls of Washington, but is entirely too immoral for those of New York, and the theatre in which it was produced there has been closed.

CHANGES IN APPROPRIATION BILL.—The following changes were made in the appropriation bill which was passed by the legislature on Monday night:

The Treasurer's salary is put back to \$1,750, the House receding from its amendment fixing it at \$1,500.

The amount for clerical expenses in the office of Secretary of the Commonwealth, \$3,000.

Secretary of the Commonwealth contingent expenses, \$500; from an arbitrary building, \$725, instead of \$800, but he shall be required to keep his fires going until 6 o'clock.

Salary of Adjutant-General, \$2,000, an increase of \$500. The Senate increased to \$2,400, but the House fixed it at \$2,000, to which the Senate agreed.

Contingent expenses Commissioner of Labor, \$500.

Salary Judge Law and Equity Court of Richmond, \$2,300.

For the registration of births and deaths, \$1,000.

FROM WASHINGTON.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.]

Washington, March 7.

An order was issued by the War Department this morning that 500 tons of rice, codfish and bacon be sent to Porto Rico, following the same amount already ordered to be sent. This was done in response to reports which state that the coffee planters cannot employ hands for lack of money and, as a consequence, thousands of idle people on the verge of starvation are drifting into the cities. The military authorities are feeling them as fast as they can but their supplies are inadequate. The continuation of the present condition of sickness and starvation, the reports say, will certainly result in an outbreak of lawlessness and brigandage.

Gen. Davis, military governor of the island, says that all immediate wants can be relieved if 25,000 men can be put to work on the roads and public improvements for three months at a cost of \$225,000 per month.

The Secretary of Agriculture has ordered one hundred thousand rubber trees for experimental purposes in Hawaii.

The Senate foreign relations committee had the Hay-Pauncefote treaty before them this morning, but no action was taken. The policy of the republican leaders is to proceed slowly owing to the fact that a number of Senators have demanded an abundance of time for thorough consideration of the points involved.

The President sent to the Senate today the following nominations: George P. Warty, of Michigan, to be U. S. district judge for the western district of Michigan; Corporal Frank M. Polk, company C, 39th infantry, U. S. V., to be second lieutenant.

Representative N. N. Cox, of Tenn., is lying seriously ill at his hotel in this city. He is one of the oldest Representatives in the House and is a member of committees on banking and currency and on military affairs. He is now serving his fifth term in Congress.

The House naval committee will go to Norfolk and Newport's Navy yards at those places. They were invited to go to Richmond to look at the Trigg shipyard there also, but had to decline on account of limited time. Representative Rixey, of the 8th Virginia district, is a member of the committee, but will not be able to go, as contested election cases demand his presence in the House.

People from Richmond here today say the prevailing impression in political circles there now is that Representative Swanson, of the Danville district, will be the democratic nominee for the next Governor of Virginia, and that delegate Willard, of Fairfax county, will be the nominee for Lieutenant-Governor.

The President, it is reported today, is in no good humor with those leaders of his party who so willingly agreed with him as to the advisability of his ridiculous "dop" on the Porto Rico tariff bill, and says they should have informed him of the opposition that bill would raise in his party. Before that bill was passed by the House, his renomination was generally conceded; but a great many prominent and influential republicans are now talking about another term for Mr. Harrison.

The argument in the contested election case of Walker vs. Rhea from the 9th Virginia district was to have been heard this morning, but no quorum had appeared up to noon, and the committee adjourned until half-past one o'clock, when it was said a quorum would certainly be present and the argument be proceeded with.

Among the strangers at the Capitol today was State Senator J. L. Jeffries of Culpeper, Virginia. Mr. Jeffries is a candidate for the democratic nomination for attorney general of his State, and, it is reported among Virginians here, stands a good chance of getting what he wants.

Representatives of the Northern and Western tobacco manufacturers were before the House today and met the committee today, asking that the duty on imported tobacco be collected when the tobacco is withdrawn from the government warehouses, and not, as now, when it goes into them.

New York democrats now here say Senator Hill will not only be a delegate to the next national democratic convention, but will go to that convention as a Bryan man and a supporter of the Chicago platform, and that all men of his State who left their party on account of the silver question, and whoever intended to come back to it, have already done so.

Contrary to expectation, even that of the republican finance committee yesterday evening agreed to report in favor of confirming the nomination of Mr. Byrum as a member of the New York board of appraisers. The committee had before them affidavits of the fact that Mr. Byrum has openly declared his democratic party and joined the democratic party and joined the democratic party, but for all that, the republican majority of the committee said he was good enough for them, and as the place, by law, belongs to a democrat, they agreed with the President that he should be paid for his services.

Mr. Maggio S. Stephens was appointed postmaster at Lovetts, Spottsylvania county, Va., today, vice Mrs. Almida Burton, resigned.

Ex-Grand Master J. R. Sovereign, of the K. of L., resumed the stand this morning at the Court of Claims investigation conducted by the House committee on naval affairs. He said: "The miners union are not criminal organizations. No union to my knowledge took any action against the blowing up of the mill."

Representative Berry of Kentucky today introduced Captains Sanders, Woodward and Bryan, of New Orleans, to Speaker Harmer, to whom it is the name of King Rex, they presented a crown with a pendant of pearls and diamonds, at the same time giving him the title of Duke of Congress in King Rex's realm. The gift was cordially accepted.

DEATH OF MAJOR WASHINGTON.—Major James B. Washington, one of the oldest officials of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, and for twenty-five years the official head of the road in Pittsburgh, died yesterday at the Passavant Hospital as the result of an operation.

Major Washington was born in Baltimore August 26, 1839. His father, Col. Lewis W. Washington, of Beall Air, Jefferson county, Va., was a grandson of Gen. George Washington's brother, John Augustine Washington.

FIFTY-SIXTH CONGRESS.

Washington, March 7.

SENATE.

Mr. Mason gave notice that tomorrow he would move that the foreign relations committee be discharged from further consideration of his resolution, introduced December 6, expressing sympathy for the Boers in their struggle against Great Britain. He disclaimed any discourtesy towards the committee or the Senate, but he had waited in vain for a report and did not propose to wait any longer. If the committee was against the resolution let an adverse report be made.

Mason expressed the belief that 95 out of 100 Americans were for the Boers, and that the Senate was also, and he did not propose that his resolution should be strangled.

After routine business Mr. Lodge made a speech on the Philippine question. He said it was important that the Spooner bill should pass, so that the President, with legislative sanction, can have the necessary power to deal with the people and the islands. It was in accord with the policy pursued under Jefferson and Monroe.

Mr. Sullivan introduced a resolution that the Philippine Islands, just as Porto Rico, are the rightful property of the United States, that while the Philippines continue the present war no extension of intention as to the future course of the United States with respect to them should be made by the Senate.

Mr. Lodge, from the committee on foreign relations, reported favorably an amendment to the diplomatic and consular appropriations bill providing for the payment to Liliuokalani, lately queen of the Hawaiian Islands, the sum of \$20,000 for the year ending December 31, 1900, and annually thereafter the sum of \$10,000 during her natural life; that sum to be in full satisfaction of all claims which she may have against the United States or the late republic of Hawaii.

HOUSE.

Another desk draped in black and covered with floral emblems of mourning bore witness at the opening of the session today that death had again visited the House. Last week it was a Virginian member; this week it is a Pennsylvanian, Mr. Harmer, who from his long term of service ranked as the father of the House. For the second time the debate on the Aldrich-Robbins contested election case has had to be postponed. Mr. Mann in charge of that case requested that the vote be taken place at 2:30 this afternoon but postponed to the same hour tomorrow.

Mr. Overstreet presented the conference report on the finance bill and suggested that he would call the report up tomorrow for consideration and hoped to be able to dispose of it then.

Mr. Bingham then announced the death of the late Representative Harmer. He spoke feelingly of the esteem in which he was held by the House and said he was one of a group of four remarkable men whom the people of Philadelphia had sent to represent them. Judge Kelly had served in 15 Congresses, or 29 years; Onell for the same length of time; Samuel J. Randall had served 14 Congresses, or 27 years, and Harmer for the same period. He then offered resolutions of regret, which were adopted, and the Speaker appointed a committee to represent the House at the funeral.

As a further mark of respect the House then adjourned until tomorrow.

CAPTAIN MALATESTA BURIED.

A cosmopolitan crowd numbering thousands attended the funeral services of the late Captain Joseph Malatesta, the popular Italian leader in Philadelphia.

A more magnificent funeral cortege has never passed through the streets of Philadelphia. Undertaker Baldi had secured the handsomest hearse in the city for the occasion, and one of the richest caskets ever made in this country lay in the hearse. The weight of the casket was so great that sixteen professional palanquins were needed to carry it. It was of Santiago mahogany, hand carved with floral and allegorical designs. As an example of the wood carver's art it was unsurpassed. The interior of the casket was lined with hand-embroidered corded silk, under which was a copper lining. An engraved silver plate bearing the dead man's name and the date of his birth and death was fastened on the inside of the casket lid, as was also a handsome silver crucifix.

Massive engraved silver handles were on the exterior of the casket. The weight of the casket with the body was over 1,000 pounds.

The casket won the gold medal at the World's Fair for its maker. Over 200 carriages followed the family from the house to the Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel, where a solemn high requiem mass was celebrated.

COURT OF APPEALS.

The spring term of the Court of Appeals began in Richmond yesterday. The following business was transacted:

Reed vs. Commonwealth, Set for the 28th of March.

Callaway vs. Webster. Passed.

City of Richmond vs. Epes. Submitted on briefs.

Finch vs. Southern Railway and others. Dismissed agreed.

Washington, Alexandria and Mount Vernon Railway Company vs. City Council of Alexandria. Argued by J. R. Katon for plaintiff and Gardner L. Boothe for defendant, and continued until today. Mr. Boothe represents the City Council and the case involves the question of paying the street and changing the rails used by the company in the city of Alexandria.

The next case to be called are Southern Railway Company vs. Wilcox, and DeJarnett and New York, Philadelphia and Norfolk Railway Company vs. Gromwell, Nos. 51 and 53 on argument docket.

THE MINE EXPLOSION.

One of the most destructive mine explosions that have ever occurred in West Virginia took place in the Red Ash mine, two miles west of Thurmond, at eight o'clock yesterday, mention of which was made in the Gazette of that date. More than 30 bodies had already been taken out late at night and the number of the dead may reach 40. Fire damp, the deadly explosive gas so often generated in coal mines, caused the disaster. The explosion took place near the entrance, when the mine was full of workmen. The entrance was closed by falling slate and the sound of the explosion spread terror in every direction. Thurmond is in Fayette county, on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad 69 miles southeast of Charleston by rail and 250 miles southwest of Baltimore in a straight line.

THE LEGISLATURE.

The scenes at the Capitol yesterday were such as usually mark the near approach of the end of a legislative session. No business was transacted, and the attendance was rather slim.

Although under a resolution all legislative business closed Monday night at midnight, both bodies nominally remained in session until this evening in order to save the lapses of time in which the Governor can sign the bill. Today the legislature adjourned for another two years.

SENATE.

Yesterday Lieutenant Governor Echols called the Senate to order at 12 o'clock, and eight members were in their seats. In three minutes the Senate adjourned, and later five more members came in.

HOUSE.

In the House Captain Parks was presented with a silver service from the committee on general laws.

Then came a series of thanks to the Speaker, pages, press and clerks for their services during the session. The friends of Mr. Bland, of Portsmouth, presented him with a handsome gold watch and chain. Clerks Britton and Mann were remembered by their corps of assistants.

The bill appropriating money for the penitentiary enlargement and the epileptic colony, both failed to pass the House, and the advocates of these two worthy measures were not in a good humor over the failure of their bills.

Before the adjournment of the House on Monday night the following Senate bills were passed:

Providing for the appointment of a State Board of Health and of a local Board of Health, defining the duties and powers and compensation thereof, and of other members, officers and agents in connection with the preservation of public health, and prescribing penalties against witnesses failing to obey subpoenas issued by said State Board of Health, or any authorized member thereof, for refusing to testify or otherwise acting in contempt of said State Board or its duly authorized member.

To amend sections 90 and 93 of an act approved March 6, 1890, as to license taxes in cases where a court certificate is required.

Authorizing cities and towns to make city and town levies.

To provide for the settlement with West Virginia of the proportion of the public debt of the original State of Virginia properly to be borne by West Virginia, and for the due protection of the Commonwealth of Virginia in the premises.

To amend section 2136 of the code as to right of owners to plant oysters in any creek and so forth within his survey.

To amend sections 3195 and 3196 of the code in reference to disbarring attorneys at law.

To incorporate the Virginia State Horticultural Society and to define its powers and duties.

To authorize clerks to enter record on delinquent land-book when lands are redeemed from purchases.

To amend an act to define and prescribe the effect as evidence of deeds conveying property heretofore or hereafter sold under deed of trust or mortgage, or under any judicial proceedings, approved February 10, 1898.

To validate acknowledgment in deeds of trust taken by clerks of county courts, who were trustees in said deeds.

To repeal section 13 and to amend and re-enact sections 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8 of chapter 2 of an act approved March 6, 1890, entitled an act to provide for the assessment of taxes on persons, property, and incomes, &c.

The House also passed House bills to amend sections 2079 and 2080 of the code in relation to unlawful hunting, and to amend section 882 of the code in relation to the compensation of overseers of the poor.

The new "Land Grabbers" act, recently passed by the legislature, has been signed by Gov. Tyler, and is now a law. The act modifies the workings of the old act, and tends to eliminate the objectionable features of the old act.

The Governor has signed the bill incorporating the Stonewall Jackson Memorial Association.

The excitement over the signing by the Governor of the commissioners' bill was still high yesterday, and Gov. Tyler was censured on all sides for signing the bill. Several delegations arrived from other cities, acting under instructions from commercial bodies, and were disgusted to find the bill a law. The editorialists in the State press fairly sizzled with criticism of the law, and the manner in which it was put in force. As soon as a test case can be made up it will be presented to the Supreme Court for a ruling, and it is confidently believed it will be declared unconstitutional, on account of the way it was passed, if for no other reason.

Among the bills approved was that ordering a vote on the question of calling a constitutional convention.

The general bill for the protection of game in Virginia did not become a law. It was introduced in the House by Mr. Cardwell, of Hanover. It was killed in the Senate by Mr. Lupton, of Frederick.

Capt. Joseph E. Willard, of Fairfax, will probably become a candidate for lieutenant-governor.

ELECTORAL BOARDS.

The following are the names of the members of the electoral boards in the counties in this section of the State elected by the Legislature on Monday night last:

Alexandria city: T. Allen Moore, E. E. Lawler and W. B. Duncan.

Clarke: J. J. Riley, W. T. Milton and F. B. Whiting.

Culpeper: S. W. Thompson, Walter Yager and G. A. Utterback.

Fairfax: James P. Meehan, Robt. E. Lee, Jr., and Benj. F. Johnson.

Fauquier: A. Fletcher, Howson Howe and Robert Murray.

King George: J. N. Peed, J. T. Minor, Jr., and James W. Dismann.

Loudoun: John F. Shyrock, Jos. L. Norris and Edgar McRay.

Orange: E. R. Robinson, E. F. Gholson and Bertelle Woolfolk.

Prince William: Joseph E. Reid, E. W. Merchant and S. B. Lane.

Rappahannock: William T. Yancey, F. L. Stinger and H. C. Wood.

Stafford: Powhatan Monroe, Edgar Randall and D. M. Lee.

Warren: J. N. Jennings, O. W. Carson and J. L. Melton.

Westmoreland: W. E. Battelle, C. C. Baker and G. Vassant.

Prof. F. L. Harvey, aged 60 years, of the University of Maine, shot and killed himself today at his home in Orono. He was suffering from mental troubles.

To Cure Constipation Forever.

Take Cascarets Candy Cathartic. 10c or 25c. M. C. C. Co. fail to cure, druggists refund money.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

The American Sugar Refining Company has reduced the price of all its sugars ten cents on the hundred pounds.

Representative Levy, of New York, introduced a resolution to force Cuba to pay the expenses of the United States in its war with Spain.

A negro yesterday assaulted Mrs. Sarah Baker, aged seventy years, at Fitzgerald, Ga. He was arrested and spirited away by officers, but a mob is in pursuit.

Harlan Whittaker, the farm hand accused of shooting Governor Goebel, of Kentucky, has been held for the April grand jury without bail. No defense was offered.

The conference report on the financial bill was taken up by the Senate yesterday afternoon, and was adopted by a vote of 44 to 26. The report now goes to the House for its financial action.

It is said that president McKinley's chances for renomination have been lessened because of his attitude on the Porto Rican tariff bill and a movement is on foot to nominate ex-President Harrison for the presidency.

Congressman Alfred C. Harmer, known as the "Father of the House," who had served thirteen full terms in Congress as Representative of the Fifth Pennsylvania district, died at his home in Germantown, Pa., last night, at the age of 75 years.

About sixty thousand dollars worth of tickets, which had been bought in advance for the performances of "Sapho" were left outstanding when the performance was suppressed in New York on Monday night. Claims for return money were presented all day Tuesday at the ticket office window, and were paid upon presentation.

Edward C. Flanagan, the man who murdered Miss Ruth Slack and Mrs. Martha Allen, at Popular Springs, on New Year's eve, 1896, gave Dixon Allen the wound which subsequently caused his death, and attempted the life of George W. Allen, died in the county jail at Decatur, Ga., yesterday. Judge Chandler has three times passed sentence of death on Flanagan.

The delegate and alternates elected yesterday to represent the District of Columbia at the republican national convention, to be held in Philadelphia June 19, are: Delegates, John E. Jones and W. Calvin Chase; alternates, Geo. E. Emmons and Lucius H. Peterson.

The defeated candidates for delegate are Robert Rayburn, George W. Lee and William F. Thomas. The candidates for alternates who were defeated and Thomas G. Henney and James A. Perry.

Jesse James, of Bethel, N. C., went Monday night with his brother Sam and two friends to the home of his sweetheart, Jessie Lewis, intent upon carrying her off by force, because her father, Edward Lewis, objected to her marrying James. The girl objected when asked to marry against her father's wishes. Hot words between father and lover were followed by a fight, in which Mr. Lewis was shot three times. He was not seriously hurt, however, and fled upon the abductor. Jesse James received three bullets, one nearly severing his nose. Sam James was killed.

VIRGINIA NEWS.

The extensive new terminal of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad at Newport News, which will cost \$2,000,000, will be completed within four months.

Gov. Tyler last night appointed Dr. Charles E. Vance health officer at Norfolk and Portsmouth, to succeed Dr. F. S. Hope. Dr. Norfleet was his most formidable opponent.

Mrs. Charlotte Tiedmann, aged 84 years, and widow of Dr. Tiedmann, of Philadelphia, died at the residence of her son-in-law, General H. Dilger, of Warren county on Monday.

Mr. Harrison Marks, one of Petersburg's most honored and esteemed citizens and who is the oldest white inhabitant of that place, yesterday celebrated his ninety-second birthday.

A large number of churches of various denominations in Richmond have been advertised and sold at public auction, on account of their not paying delinquent taxes.

Mrs. Elizabeth Grammer Thornton, wife of Mr. Champ T. Thornton, of Port Royal, died at the residence of the Misses Kelly, in Fredericksburg yesterday. Rev. Julius Grammer, of Baltimore is her brother.

Mr. J. B. T. Thornton, commonwealth's attorney of Prince William county, who has been very sick, did not appear in court at Manassas yesterday. Mr. J. Jenkin Davies acted as commonwealth's attorney.

Magistrate Oscar Fleming, of Prince Anne county, charged with the murder of young Snyder, was yesterday committed to the Norfolk city jail. A guard of his friends is at his home, in the county, to protect his family.

The Grand Lodge, Knights of Honor of Virginia, met in Roanoke last night for their 22nd annual session. The various committees, preliminary to the regular work of the convention, were appointed, and the actual work of the session began today.

It is reported that Rev. T. J. Mackay, who recently figured in the East End Church, Newport News, scandal, will resign his pastorate and accept the position of national shore superintendent of the Gospel Yacht Association, which is having built yacht for services, to be held at various ports, for the benefit of the seamen.

Six assaults in four days, by negro highwaymen and burglars, who have murderously clubbed four defenseless women, have stirred not only Norfolk but the surrounding country, to a high pitch of excitement. For some defenseless woman to be brutally attacked in her own home by a mysterious burglar is now an almost nightly occurrence in Norfolk. Of all the suspects arrested by the police circumstantial evidence points most clearly to James Agerson a negro.

It Saved His Leg.

S. A. Danforth, of LaGrange, Ga., suffered intensely for six months from a frightful running sore on his leg, but wrote that Bucklen's Arnica Salve cured it in ten days. For Ulcers, Wounds, Burns, Boils, Pain or Piles it's the best salve in the world. Cure guaranteed. Only 25c. Sold by E. S. Leadbeater & Sons, Druggists.

Rev. W. E. Sitzer, W. Caton, N. Y., writes "I had dyspepsia twenty years, and tried doctors and medicines without benefit. I was persuaded to use Kodol Dyspepsia Cure and it helped me from the start. I believe it to be a panacea for all forms of indigestion. It digests what you eat."

To Cure Constipation Forever.

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TO-DAY'S TELEGRAPHIC NEWS

The Situation in South Africa.

London, March 7.—The absence of all news which would throw light on Gen. Roberts' movements creates the belief that he is already attacking or about to attack the Boer position on his front. The forces opposing the British at Ofontein are now in command of Gen. Joubert and are believed to comprise the main Boer army. They have been constantly strengthening their position which extends along a ridge to the north and south of the river. The rebellion in Cape Colony, which has been strongest in the region near the Orange river, is now spreading in the Prieska and Kenhardt districts, far over to the west. The movement has also affected the district around Victoria West, in Central Cape Colony. The increased disaffection among the Cape Colonists is causing alarm at the war office. Prompt repressive measures will be necessary in the disaffected districts, as the rebellion will be a serious menace to the invasion of the Transvaal by threatening the line of the British supplies from Capetown to the front.

General Buller is reported to be advancing along the Harrismith railroad westward toward the Drakenberg Passes, into the Orange Free State without encountering any Boers.

Durban, March 6.—The British flying column which has been in Zululand since the first of the year, has been heard from. On February 23, the column invaded the Transvaal. The Zululans were thrown forward to repel a large party of Boer raiders who had entered Zululand. By a forced midnight march, the column reached Melmoth, near the Transvaal border on February 22, just before the arrival of the Boers whose scouts were everywhere in the neighborhood. On the arrival of the Boers, the Boers retired to the hills. Last week a stronger column was thrown forward consisting of mounted and unmounted infantry with quick-firing guns. Major Pendergast commanding. After crossing the frontier the column continued to Gaisia, nine miles within the Transvaal, where they entrenched themselves. Since that time there have been daily skirmishes with the Boers. Once a party of sixty Boers was ambushed losing three killed and four wounded. The British casualties thus far have been nil.

Big Fire in Philadelphia.

Philadelphia, March 7.—A disastrous fire broke out shortly after 7 o'clock this morning in the shopping district of the city, and the flames raged with a fierceness which threatened to wipe out a greater part of the square bounded by Arch, Eighth, Cherry and Ninth streets. The fire originated in the department store of Shoneman Brothers. The five watchmen employed in the store had made their last round and were preparing to leave when they were startled by the cry of fire from the engineer. They hurriedly sent in an alarm. When the fire department arrived on the scene the lower floors of Shoneman's store was a mass of seething flames, and it was found necessary to send in a general alarm. With remarkable rapidity the flames spread from floor to floor and communicated to adjoining buildings. The fire broke out half an hour before the employees of Shoneman arrived at work. In all there were about five hundred hands employed in the large store, and these will now be forced to remain idle for some time. The large number of employees of Meyerhoff will likewise be thrown out of employment. All traffic for squares around was delayed. Trolley wires were torn down, and telegraph and telephone wires destroyed. The losses will amount to nearly \$1,000,000. This makes the third large and destructive conflagration which has visited this district within the past three months.

Foreign News.

London, March 7